570

GENUINE

LETTERS

BETWEEN

Alderman Nathaniel Kane,

AND

Mr. Charles Lucas,

CONCERNING

The Purchaſe of the MILLS at Iſland Bridge.

Publiſhed by Order of Alderman *KANE*.

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23
Mar. 14

BRITISH MUSEUM

MR. CRYSTAL'S LETTERS

RELATED

LETTERS

GENUINE

PREFACE.

SOME Preface may be thought neceſſary, and a very ſhort one will ſuffice to introduce the following Letters to publick View. It is full as contrary to my Inclination, as it is out of my way, to engage in ſuch Diſputes; the Vindication of my own Character, without any Intention to injure or ſupplant Mr. Lucas, was my ſole Motive for applying to him; and my Fellow-Citizens may judge of the Candour of his Heart, by peruſing the very extraordinary Anſwers I have had from him. Rant and Drollery are not my Talent; and I cannot help looking with Contempt upon any Man, who treats a Subject ſo ſerious as a wounded Character with Sneers, and Attempts to be witty; when, by a plain Anſwer to a plain Queſtion, he could have ſatisfied the Publick, and have done me Juſtice.

Since therefore Mr. [illegible] hath not the Honeſty, if he is conſcious that he [illegible] taken or miſinformed, to acknowledge and retract his Error; nor the Courage to avow and ſupport his Charge; I hope the Reader will indulge me when I ſolemnly aſſure him, that Mr. Darby, the then Proprietor of the Mills, (ſince deceaſed) never was indebted to me, or to the Bank in which I am concerned, one ſingle Farthing; neither had I any ſort of Acquaintance with him, previous to the Treaty about the Purchaſe of theſe Mills for the Uſe of the City; nor had he ever tranſacted any Buſineſs with our Houſe: And his Son, who is now alive, hath aſſured me, that neither he nor his Father ever offered them to ſale, nor were ever in Treaty about ſelling them to

any Perſon whatever, until they ſold them to the City; and let Mr. Lucas *diſprove one Tittle of this, if he can.*

Altho' it be not my preſent Buſineſs to enquire, whether the City made an advantageous Bargain, or not, in the Purchaſe of the Mills; yet it is evident, that ſince the Supply of Water, we have received from them, the Inhabitants of the City have not been in the Diſtreſs they ſeverely felt every dry Summer before: And give me Leave to add, that the Corporation have been very conſiderable Gainers by the Purchaſe.

March 23, 1748.

NATHAN. KANE.

LETTERS
BETWEEN
Alderman Kane,
AND
Mr. Charles Lucas.

LETTER I.

Alderman Kane, *to Mr.* Lucas.

March 14, 1748.

SIR,

I HAVE been informed, that in ſome of the Speeches you have made to the ſeveral Corporations, and particularly to the Weavers, you were pleaſed to animadvert upon the Purchaſe which the City made of the Mills at *Iſland Bridge*; and among other Things aſſerted, that *altho' the ſaid Mills had been offered in ſeveral Coffee-houſes for about* 1800 l. *yet a certain Alderman, to whom a Sum of Money was owing by the Proprietor, influenced the City to give* 3500 l. *for them, in order to ſecure the ſaid Debt.*

By what Means it hath come to paſs, I cannot poſſibly find out; yet, to my great Surprize, I have been informed, that the Town has generally

nerally looked upon me as the Alderman you intended.

Conſcious of my own Innocence, I remained quiet and eaſy; ſatisfied that a very little Time and Recollection would convince the Publick, that you neither did, nor could, intend this Charge for me: But hearing that the Story is ſtill told, my Name ſtill tacked to it, and that it hath made ſome diſadvantageous Impreſſions on many of my Acquaintance and Fellow-Citizens, that I ſhould continue ſilent under ſuch an Imputation, if I was wholly innocent, I am obliged, in Vindication of my own Character, to call upon you to declare, whether I am the Alderman you intended, or whether I am not? This is a fair, plain Queſtion, which I aſk without a View of doing you any Injury, and you cannot refuſe to anſwer, without doing me Injuſtice.

If you ſay you did not mean me, I ſhall publiſh your Declaration to my Fellow-Citizens, in my own Vindication, and ſhall neither give you or myſelf any farther Trouble; but if you ſay you did, I call upon you to make good your Charge, which I abſolutely deny, and am willing to ſtake whatever Share of Credit, or Character, I am entitled to, upon the Iſſue of ſuch an Inquiry.

A ſevere Fit of the Gout hath prevented this Application, for ſome Time paſt; and as it is a Matter which you can quickly determine, I hope for the Favour of an immediate and explicit Anſwer.

I am,

SIR,

Your Humble Servant,

NATHAN. KANE.

LETTER

LETTER II.

Mr. LUCAS's *Anſwer.*

SIR,

I CAN not expreſs my Surpriſe at the unexpected, and indeed undeſerved Favor of a Letter from you. And, I am not leſs ſurpriſed, to find a Gentleman, whoſe good Senſe I never heared called in queſtion; take upon him to examine me ſo critically, as to demand to know, even, my ſecret Intentions! a ſovereign Power never yet claimed in theſe Kingdoms, no; not, even, by any Alderman, within my Memory.

That I did oppoſe, and ever ſhall expoſe, the clandeſtine and injurious Purchaſe of the Mills of *Iſland Bridge*, though made by what you are pleaſed to call the City; is not unknown to you. That I oppoſed it in the Committee, where a certain Alderman forgot his natural, or affected, Mildneſs, and uſed all Means to get the City Seals put to a Deed of Purchaſe, of which he long and violently oppoſed the Reading, and in which, upon reading, many Blanks appeared; and this without any ſort of Authority from the Aſſembly, or Countenance from Reaſon, Juſtice, or Law, you may well remember; and, that I publiſhed ſome Account of this Proceeding that Year, or the next, and ſpoke of it in Public, often ſince; you might have heared.

But, why the Friends of Alderman *Kane*, ſhould have taken upon them to point him out the guilty Alderman, ſo as to affect his Fellow-Citizens and Acquaintance, is a Matter, for which I can not think myſelf accountable. To them, then, I muſt beg you will apply, and aſk them, why they preſume to tack your Name to the Story: For, they alone, I think, are to blame, who did ſo. I have prevented one of your Nephews doing it publickly.

ly. And, I think, thoſe, who have thus diſturbed your conſcious Innocence, and that calm Quiet and Eaſe, which virtuous Minds muſt ever enjoy; are, undoubtedly, obliged to give you that Satisfaction, which you, I believe inadvertently, have demanded of me.

I muſt confeſs, I am very ſorry for the remarkable Senſibility, upon ſome Occaſions, ſhewn by the Board of Aldermen. You may remember, that upon mentioning the Tyranny of the Aldermen, ſo early, as the Reign of *Richard* the Third, in the Guild of Merchants, ſeveral Aldermen, though all of conſcious Innocence, and inbred Quiet and Eaſe; took Fire, and loſſed that Compoſure and Decency of Behaviour, becoming their Rank and Dignity.--------Sure the Board of Aldermen are not like the Courtiers, laſhed at in a Ballad, I have met ſomewhere;

If you mention Vice or Bribe,
'Tis ſo pat to all the Tribe,
Each cries it was levelled at me.

This, ſure, can not be the Caſe. Therefore, Sir, you will excuſe me, If I deſire you will fix upon thoſe, that tacked your Name to the Story.

And now, Sir, if you will favor me with a little Patience, you ſhall ſee, if I live; a fair Hiſtory of the Foundation and Conſtitution of this City, in general, with the ſeveral Breaches made therein; and particularly, of all the Tranſactions relating to that Purchaſe, with the Names of the Perſons concerned, and their Titules, at full length. In this, I am neceſſitated to be particular, by the Behaviour of ſome of your Relations, which for the Sake of others, who are very high in my Eſteem; gives me no ſmall Concern.

You

You muſt be ſenſible, that I could have had no View, in the Oppoſition I gave you and the reſt of the Board, in any Inſtance, but to ſet the Affairs of the City, upon a juſt and legal footing; on which, you all know, it is not. If I were miſtaken, you might and ought to have ſet me right, which you never did. I now wiſh you would permit it to be reſtored, or ſhew juſt Cauſe, why you will not; and then, all Degrees of Animoſity, between the Board and me, ſhall for ever ceaſe: For, if it appears, that I have been in an Error, I ſhall readily retract. But, till this is done, no diſpaſſionate Man, for bringing all Truths, relative to the Points in Conteſt, to public View; can blame,

SIR,

Ormond-Quay, March 15, 1748.

Your Humble Servant,

C. LUCAS.

P. S. I am ſorry for your Indiſpoſition; and if any Hints of the Regimen, that relieved me of that Diſorder, would be ſatisfactory, you may command them.

If the Publication of this Letter will anſwer your Purpoſe, after taking the Trouble of pointing and correcting it, you ſhall be welcome.

LETTER III.

Alderman Kane, *to Mr.* Lucas.

SIR,

I Am perſwaded that no unprejudiced Perſon will think that I have been guilty of an improper Examination into your ſecret Intentions, by deſiring you to declare whether I was that Alderman you charged with having influenced the City to give 3500 *l.* for the Mills at *Iſland-Bridge* (which you alledged to have been offered for 1800 *l.*) in Order to ſecure a Sum of Money due to him by the Proprietor. This Requeſt I muſt inſiſt to have been both modeſt and reaſonable, and that you were bound by all the Laws of Society and Juſtice to have given a direct and explicit Anſwer, inſtead of which I cannot but look upon that you ſent me as an evaſive one.

When you publiſhed that heavy Charge againſt a certain Alderman in your Speech at the Weavers Hall, you muſt or ought to have known the guilty Perſon, and tho' you might have continued eaſy while it ſtood as a Reflection againſt the Board at large, no Perſon being named, yet ſurely when you found that your Fellow-Citizens and mine had miſtaken the Alderman you deſigned, and had fixed this black Crime upon one who was innocent, and that his good Name was thereby greatly wounded; Humanity, at leaſt common Juſtice, ſhould have prompted you with the ſame Haſte, that a Man would extinguiſh a Fire in his Houſe, to have declared without being called upon, that I was not the Perſon you intended: Hereby you would have done Juſtice to me, in leaving my Character where it was, and Juſtice to your Fellow-Citizens, in undeceiving them in a Point ſo tender to the Reputation of one of their Brethren.

You

You may oppoſe and expoſe what you call a clandeſtine and injurious Purchaſe of the Mills, when and in what Manner you pleaſe; at preſent I confine myſelf to the particular Charge to which my Name hath been annexed, and once more inſiſt on an immediate Anſwer to that ſingle Point, nor do I ſee any Reaſon why you ſhould expect me to wait for it, until you ſhall think fit, in the courſe of your Writings, to publiſh a Hiſtory of theſe Tranſactions.

If you do not comply with this Requeſt, I ſhall think myſelf obliged to acquaint the Publick with the Application I have made to you, and your Backwardneſs to do me Juſtice, and leave them to judge, if you continue to refuſe, what Pretenſions you have to the Character of Candor and Integrity, to which you have made ſo loud a Claim. I am,

SIR,

Your Humble Servant,

March 18, 1748.

NATHAN. KANT.

I thank you, for your Offer to inſtruct me in your Regimen, but cannot think of going into ſo ſevere a one, eſpecially at this Time of Life.

LETTER IV.

Mr. LUCAS's *Anſwer.*

SIR,

AS I never had the Happineſs of convincing, nor of being convinced by you, in any Point; ſo, I am not at all ſurpriſed, that what I ſhould have ſaid, in Anſwer to your firſt Letter, ſhould be deemed evaſive. You can not, therefore, expect,

pect, that I ſhould take much Pains to convince you againſt the firm Perſuaſion, with which you are pleaſed to ſet out. For, I muſt now, ſuppoſe, that nothing leſs would ſatisfy you, than ſuch a Declaration, as *Nathan* made to *David*, to wit; *Thou art the Man*. Though againſt, even ſuch an one, were it made, your conſcious Innocence and concommittant Quiet and Eaſe muſt prove a moſt powerful Shield.

Your laſt Letter brings two remarkable Things ſtrongly to my View; though extremely different from each other. The one is, the Trial of Colonel *Lilburn*, before the high Commiſſion Court; and the other, the Trial of the Validity, or rather of the Inconveniency of the Election of Mr. *La Touche* and me, into the Common Council. In the firſt, the upright Judges uſed all the artfull Means that Perverſeneſs and Malignity could prompt, to intangle an Innocent Man in Words, of which, they were to aſſume the Conſtruction; and ſo, aſked him a Number of impertinent Queſtions, upon a groundleſs and illegal Indictment. In the Second, that aweful, new-rule Tribunal, of which you are, by divine Permiſſion, a Judge, uſed all its Might to put the Perſons complained againſt, under the Neceſſity of proving a Negative; at the ſame Time, that the Complainants were not required, nor, indeed admitted, to go into any Proof of their Allegations. You did not, I preſume, live when the former Court flouriſhed; But, how great a Share you bore in the Proceedings of the latter, you may recollect, as well, as I.

Now, Sir, raiſe your Brethren of the Board, to an high Commiſſion Court, for my Trial; as well, as for other Purpoſes, if you will; provided I may be allowed the Liberty, to which all Men, that are accuſed of real, or imaginary Crimes, are intituled. Set forth your Indictment, give it your utmoſt

utmoſt Proof, and then, I ſhall make my Defence.
Do not look upon me, as one of the many weak, innocent, tho' wretched Slaves, that are daily trapaned, by impudent and corrupt modern Juſtices, who lead the miſerable, unwary Dupes, to their Ruin, by ſundry ſubtil and deſigning Queſtions. Every Alderman, or pretended Alderman in the Set, and who, or how many they may be, is impoſſible for me to determine, have, now, an equal Right to queſtion me, with you. But, why you ſhould, notwithſtanding your Conſcious Innocence, ſingle yourſelf out, as this guilty Alderman, is hardly conſonant with that Prudence, that has born you, thus far, well through Life.

I remember a great Noiſe, once, made, by my ſpeaking of a Jacobite Baronet, in a publick Aſſembly, without naming, or glancing at any Individual. Many were conſcious, their Friend was ſtruck at. Was I to be accountable for Men's pointing out themſelves, or their Friends? Would you not have laughed at any Baronet of your Acquaintance, that ſhould have aſked, if he were the Perſon meaned?

I muſt tell you once, for all, Sir, that your Threats and Entreaties move me alike upon this Occaſion, as they did, when we were in the Common Council together; and that, till I am ready to make my poſitive Charge, fully and publickly, you ſhall not learn from me the particular Alderman, I glanced at, as the chief Agent in that ſhameful Purchaſe.

Let me further inform you, that I have made an unalterable Reſolution to expoſe, and, if poſſible to bring to condign Puniſhment, all the Enemies of our Conſtitution. Such, I deem all thoſe who incroach upon the Rights and Liberties of the Community, without a proper Warrant from Juſtice, or Law. This Charge, I have long ſince made

upon the Board of Aldermen, and they have never acquitted themſelves, in any Inſtance. I am, therefore, determined, ſince they are reſolved to hold and perſevere in their Uſurpations, to detect their Abuſes to the Public, in which Proſecution, I do not fear being able to make the Twenty-four appear, as hateful in *Dublin*, as the Thirty Tyrants were in *Athens*.

Whether, or how far your imaginary Charge againſt me, be right, or wrong, true, or falſe, in the Whole, or in Part, I ſhall not, at this Time, think myſelf bound to inform you; nor whether I found my Fellow-Citizens miſtaken in the Alderman I deſigned, or not. Your Friends and you take this to yourſelves!------You muſt, then, anſwer and acquit yourſelves. If you and all your Friends unanimouſly cried out, that a certain Apothecary, a certain Citizen, or a certain Maſter of a Corporation, did any one wicked, or unjuſt Thing; I think you would juſtly laugh at any Particular, who ſhould be ſo galled, as to aſk you, Did you mean him?

Now, Sir, cry out to the Public as ſoon as you pleaſe. Inform them of your Application to one, on whom you have no Right to call; and let them judge whether I have done you Injuſtice, or you attempt to do me a Wrong. My Clame to Candor and Integrity, is not laid in Words, only; I ſhall let my Actions ſpeak for me. And, if there can be ſuch a Public, as will cenſure me for refuſing to anſwer ſuch particular Quæres, as may be put to me, by every individual Lord Lieutenant, Lord Deputy, or Juſtice, Biſhop, Judge, Alderman, Sheriff, or other Magiſtrate, or Miniſter, whoſe Corruptions, in general, I have endeavoured to expoſe, I dare deny their Authority, as I ſhould do that of any other unjuſt Judges, or Uſurpers, and juſtly deſpiſe their groundleſs Cenſure.

But,

But, Sir, it is plain, that ſince our firſt ill fated Acquaintance, you have been determined to oppoſe, and, even, to miſunderſtand me. It is, now too late for me to expect to move you to think better of me.——In your Poſt-ſcript, you ſay, I offer to inſtruct you in my Regimen!——That would have been a daring Attempt indeed. But, I never could have thought any Regimen of mine, phyſical, or political, could ſuit your Conſtitution, or Diſpoſition exactly; therefore, I never was in any Reſpect, ſo vain, as to preſume to inſtruct, whatever I might to adviſe you.——You ſee, our Miſunderſtanding is likely to Increaſe, and ſince we want that Simularity of Morals, or Principles, that is neceſſary to Concord; Correſpondence can anſwer no more uſeful, or ſatisfactory Purpoſes, than our former Meetings and Conferences produced. Beſides, my Head and Hands are, at preſent, otherwiſe engaged. So,

SIR,

Your Humble Servant,

Ormond-Quay,
March 19, 1748.

C. LUCAS.

FINIS

But, Sir, it is plain, that since our first ill fated Acquaintance, you have been determined to oppose, and, even, to misunderstand me. It is, now too late for me to expect to move you to think better of me.------In your Poll-script, you say, I offer to instruct you in my Regimen!------That would have been a daring Attempt indeed. But, I never could have thought any Regimen of mine, physical, or political, could hurt your Constitution, or Diposition exactly; therefore, I never was in any Perplexity, to vain, as to presume to instruct, whatever I might to advise you.------You see, our Misunderstanding is likely to increase, and since we want that Similarity of Morals, or Principles, that is necessary to Concord; Correspondence can answer no more useful, or Satisfactory Purpose, than our former Meetings, and Conferences produced. Perhaps, my Head and Hands are, at present, otherwise engaged. So,

SIR,

Your Humble Servant,

Diamond-Grey.

March 19, 1748.

C. Lucas.